

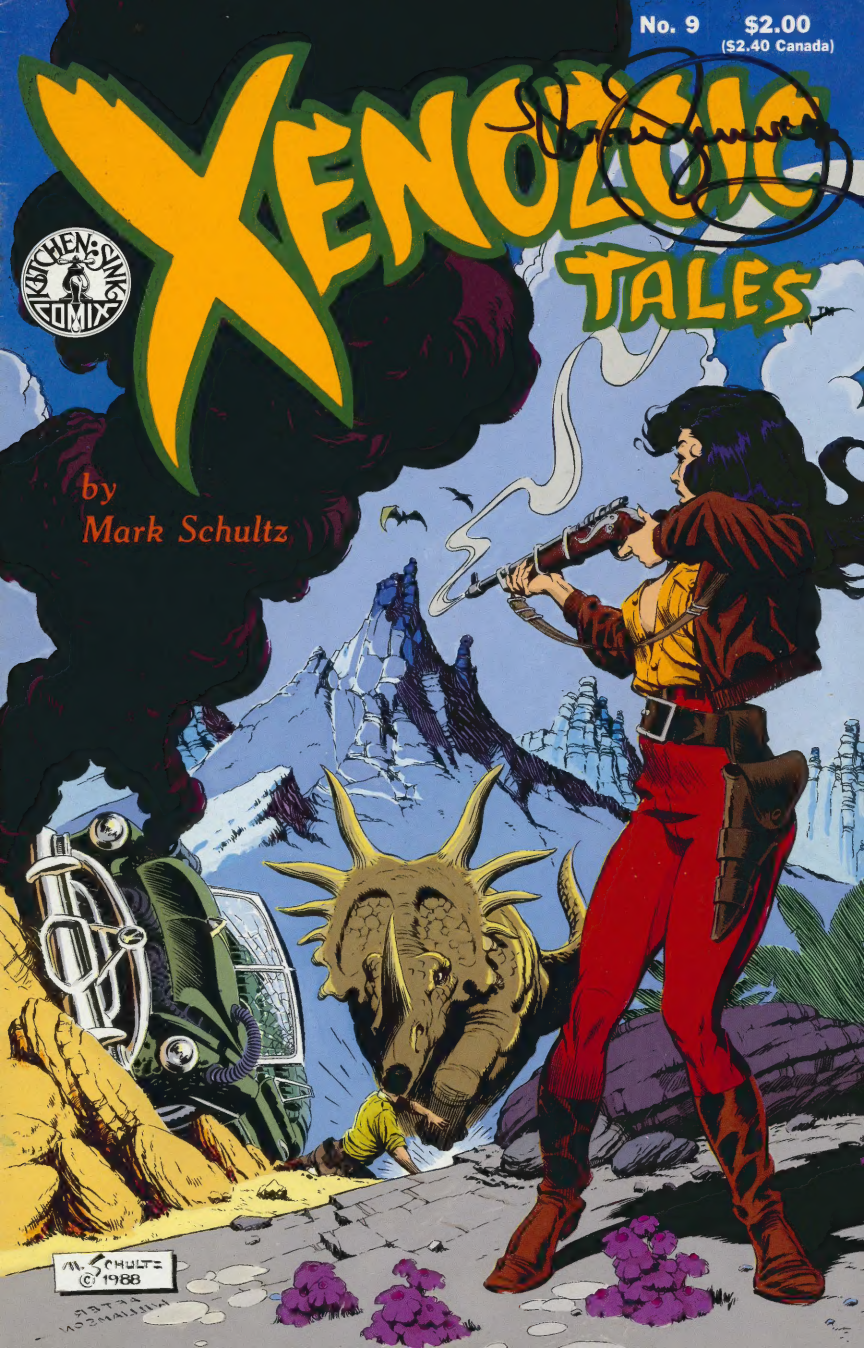
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XENOTIC TALES

Stephen King

by
Mark Schultz



M. SCHULTZ
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WELCOME TO THE XENOZOIC!

*Welcome to a world gone mad.
Where dinosaurs roam with
humans and Cadillacs race
woolly mammoths. Welcome
to all of Earth's ages
rolled into one! Meet
Jack Tenrec—Cadillac Jack—
part mechanic, part shaman.
Meet Hannah Dundee,
scientist, diplomat,
explorer. Together,
willingly or unwillingly,
they seek the secrets of
the Xenozoic. What they
find is inside...*

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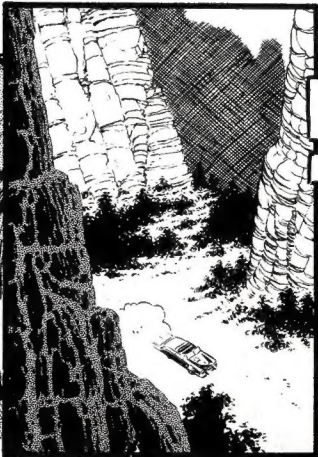
Editor
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Publisher
DENIS KITCHEN



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LAST LINK IN THE CHAIN



It was the smoke that gave the poachers away. The long, tedious patrol had turned up that which he most hated to find.

With a stealth that rendered him invisible to even these seasoned *jungle pirates*, he stole into the dark glade. Not until he stood in their midst did Jack Tenrec announce his presence...



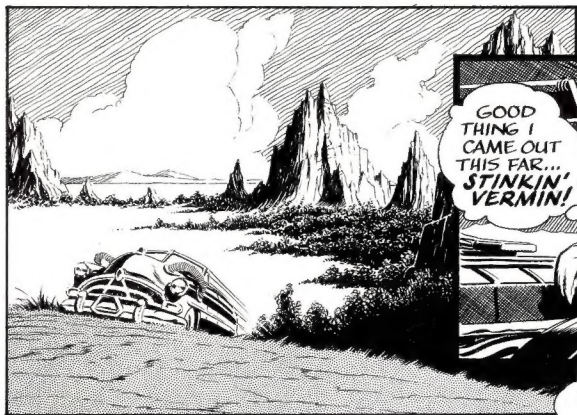
END OF
THE GAME,
GENTLEMEN.

LAY
DOWN YOUR
ARMS...AND DON'T
TRY ANYTHING YOU'RE
NOT *SURE* YOU
CAN FINISH.



MARV
SCHULTZ
©87





GOOD
THING I
CAME OUT
THIS FAR...
**STINKIN'
VERMIN!**

BETTER GET HOME...
I THINK HANNAH
WANTS TO LECTURE ME
THIS AFTERNOON
...

EX-SPLAT!
TOO LATE!

XO?H*!!
BULL MUST
BE ACHIN' TO
IMPRESS THE
COWS...



WHY DO I
LET HER TREAT
ME LIKE THAT?
WHY DO...

WHOOPS!!
MACKS! DON'T
WANNA GET
THEM
RILED!



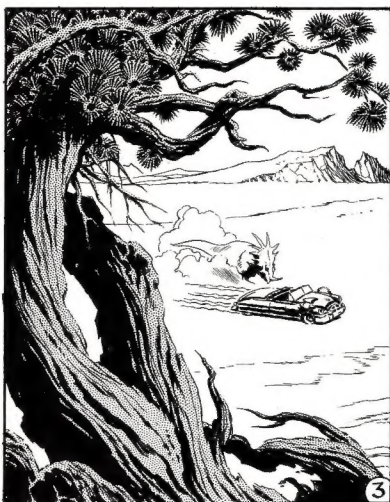
C'MON,
BABY!

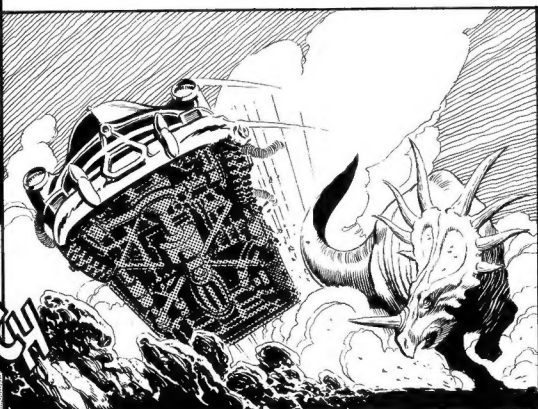
WHAT THE
HELL?!

SHE'S
CUT
OUT ON
ME!!



EX-EX-EX-WINUNK!









GOVERNOR DAHLGREN!

AMBASSADOR DUNDEE! I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE YOUR UNFORTUNATE MISADVENTURE WITH JACK AT LAKE ORENDRA. I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU'VE RECOVERED...

WELL ENOUGH, THANK YOU.

CERTAINLY NOTHING FOR YOU TO WORRY ABOUT...

I JUST WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW THAT ALTHOUGH IT IS **QUITE** OBVIOUS TO ME THAT IT WAS **YOUR** TALK THAT CONVINCED JACK TO GO TO THE LAKES, I IN **NO WAY** HOLD YOU EVEN **SLIGHTLY** RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT BEFELL...



LET ME SUGGEST YOU KEEP MY VISIT TO JACK **QUIET!**

AS WE **BOTH** SEEM TO HOLD AN INTEREST IN TENREC, I **CAUTION** YOU,... IT'S TO **ALL** OUR BENEFIT TO **FORGET** I WAS OUT TO SEE HIM.

TRY TO REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE A **VISITOR** IN THIS CITY, AND CAN'T **POSSIBLY** UNDERSTAND ALL THE COMPLEXITIES INVOLVED IN SUPPORTING A **WALKING POLITICAL LIABILITY** LIKE **TENREC!**



AS REGARDS **YOUR** SAFETY... I HAVE **NO** DESIRE TO RISK HOSTILITIES WITH THE WASSOON BY PLACING THEIR AMBASSADOR'S LIFE IN DANGER.

THAT IS AN ATTITUDE NOT SHARED BY **EVERYONE** IN THE CITY...

ESPECIALLY GIVEN YOUR INCREASINGLY **CLOSE** ASSOCIATION WITH **TENREC**.



IT'S
IN YOUR
BEST INTEREST
TO STAY AWAY
FROM TENREC
FOR THE TIME
BEING.

BELIEVE
ME, I'M THE
BEST FRIEND
JACK HAS
RIGHT NOW...
AND PROBABLY
YOURS,
TOO...

NOW
PLEASE
EXCUSE
ME.

THE COUNCIL VOTES SOON
TO FILL THE VACANCY CREATED
WHEN GOVERNOR GORGOSTAMOS
DIED, AND THERE'S MUCH
PREPARATION TO BE DONE...
I'M NEEDED THERE.



I'M SURE YOU
ARE, GOVERNOR...
AND I **STILL** DON'T
TRUST YOU.



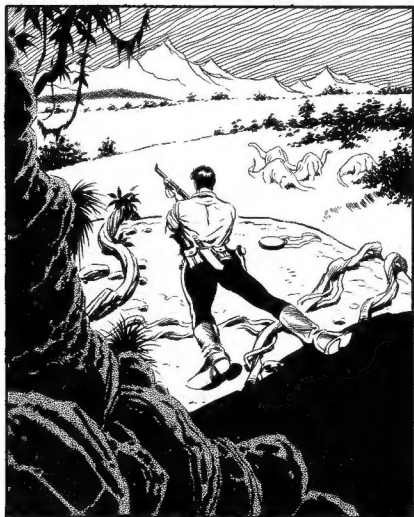
MAYBE THE
SUN IS MAKIN' MY
HEAD A LITTLE FUNNY,
BUT I FEEL LIKE I'M
BEING FOLLOWED...



SAMBUKS ARE
ACTIN' SKITTISH, TOO...
AND IT ISN'T **ME** THEY'RE
CONCERNED WITH.



I'M WAY TOO SMALL TO
WORRY ABOUT, HUH, GUYS?
JUST MINDIN' MY OWN BUSINESS
HERE.





CUTTER!
GOOD LORD!

HUH?
WUZZAT?

CRAFTY
DEVIL...
FOXED ME GOOD!
ALMOST HAD
ME, TOO.

GOT NO FEAR
OF MAN... AND NO
WONDER! HIS JAW'S
BROKEN... HE'S STARVING
TO DEATH!



TIME ENOUGH
TO DROP HIM...
EASY...

CLICK!
CLICK!
CLICK!

MISFIRES!
ALL
MISFIRES!

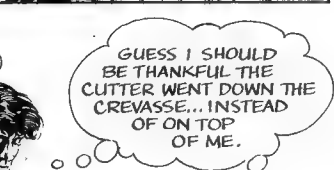




OOOOOOH...
LEG IS ON
FIRE...



TORE IT UP
GOOD...
MUST BE THE
HAMSTRING...



GUESS I SHOULD
BE THANKFUL THE
CUTTER WENT DOWN THE
CREVASSE... INSTEAD
OF ON TOP
OF ME.

GOOD
RIDDANCE!



BUT I'VE GOT NO
PROTECTION NOW!
THE PYTHON'S
NO REAL
HELP OUT
HERE...

THERE'S NO
DENYIN' IT...
FIRST THE
HUDSON... THEN
MY RIFLE...
SOMEONE
TAMPERED
WITH MY
EQUIPMENT...



AND THEY'VE
GOT ME RIGHT
WHERE THEY WANT
ME.

BUT
I'M NOT
DEAD
YET!

GOTTA KEEP
MOVIN'...
COVER A LOT
OF GROUND
BEFORE
NIGHTFALL...



KIRGO! WHERE'S JACK? HE SAID HE'D MEET ME THIS AFTERNOON...

HE'S NOT HERE, HANNAH... HE'S STILL OUT ON PATROL UP NORTH.



THAT'S STRANGE... HE KNEW I HAD SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO DISCUSS WITH HIM.

JACK'S BEEN LATE BEFORE...

I KNOW... STILL, I THINK HE MAY BE IN SOME TROUBLE.

WELL, JACK'S MADE PLENTY OF ENEMIES, BUT HE DOESN'T **SPOOK** EASY.

HE'S BEEN ACTING STRANGE EVER SINCE HE GOT THAT VISIT FROM DAHLGREN AND MUSTAPHA...

MORE LIKELY HE'S OUT THERE LYIN' IN WAIT...



BUT I **DO** TRUST INSTINCT, AND IF YOURS TELLS YOU IT'S WORTH THE TROUBLE, I GUESS IT WOULDN'T HURT TO TAKE A TURN OUT THERE.

IT'S **MORE** THAN JUST INSTINCT...

IT'LL BE DARK IN A FEW HOURS... WE WON'T COVER MUCH GROUND TODAY.

WE'LL SEE WHAT WE CAN BEFORE SETTIN' UP CAMP AND THEN WE'LL GET AN EARLY START TOMORROW MORNING...





GOTTA BE *FURTIVE*...KEEP AWAY FROM OPEN STRETCHES... CAN'T RISK *ANY* CONFRONTATIONS...



NO GUN...
BUSTED LEG'S GETTIN' STIFF...
GOTTA THINK DIFFERENT NOW... USE MY WITS...
BE *CRAFTY*, LIKE THAT CUTTER...

GONNA HAVE TO FORGET MAKIN' IT HOME BY NIGHTFALL TOMORROW...

RUSTLE 000

OH, OH...
SOMETHING'S GETTIN' A LITTLE TOO CLOSE...



YOU!!!
*!@!/?
HOW?



QUA HOON,
HE'S TOUGH!

HIS HUNGER HAS
OVERCOME HIS FEAR OF FIRE.
GUESS I'M HIS ONLY OPTION... HE
CAN'T CATCH ANYTHING ELSE...



HE'S UP...
AGAIN!

GROAN

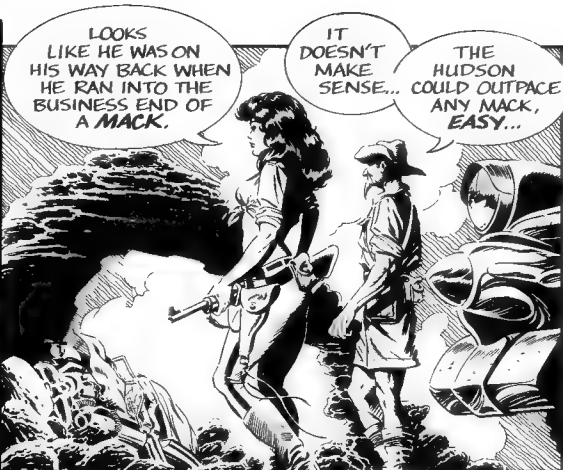
FORGET THE
PAIN...MAKE IT TO
THE TREES...



TOO
ORNERY
TO
DIE...

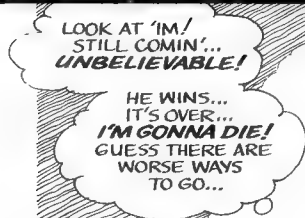


SIGH
IT'S GONNA
BE A LONG
NIGHT...













GOOD LORD!
KIRGO! YOU'LL
NEVER BELIEVE
WHAT I SEE...

QUA HOON!
I SEE IT, TOO!

SEE
IT, BUT
DON'T
BELIEVE
IT...

THE
SHIVAT MUST
HAVE BEEN
SUBMERGED..
DISLORGING
PARASITES...

A LOT OF PEOPLE
SEEM TO THINK JACK'S
SOME KIND OF MYSTIC
...AND I'VE SEEN HIS
AFFINITY WITH THE...
AH...WILDLIFE...

BUT
THIS IS
A LITTLE
MUCH.

WHAT
SHOULD WE
DO?



I SAY WE DON'T DO ANYTHING
TO UPSET THE SHIVAT...

AND
HOPE THAT HE
CONSIDERS
JACK TOO PUNY
TO BOTHER
WITH.

WHEN
HE'S EATEN
HIS FILL, HELL
LEAVE.
WE CAN
PICK UP
JACK
THEN...



IT THE
MEANTIME,
WE WAIT.

AND IF WE HOLD WITH
JACK'S PHILOSOPHY, WE
WON'T WORRY... CAUSE WHAT
GOES AROUND COMES AROUND,
AND MAYBE JACK'S JUST
GETTING HIS DUE...

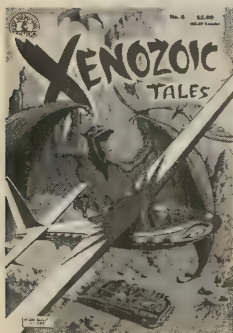
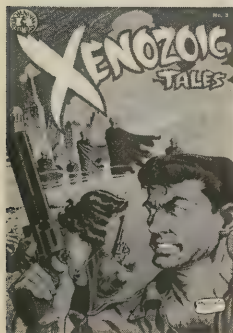
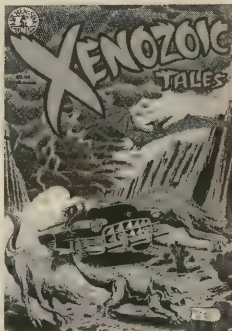
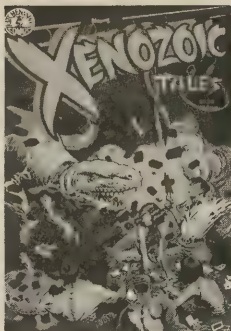
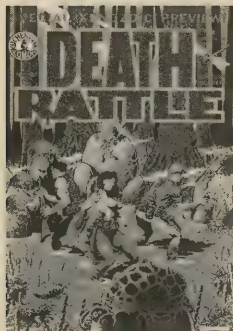
WHICH IS
BETTER THAN WHAT'S
WAITING FOR HIM
BACK HOME.

HANG TOUGH,
JACK... AND
DON'T MOVE
A MUSCLE!



THE END

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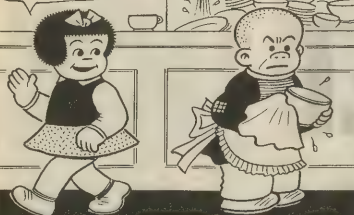
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SO, SLUGGO--- HOW
DO YOU LIKE IT
AT KITCHEN
SINK?

HMPH!



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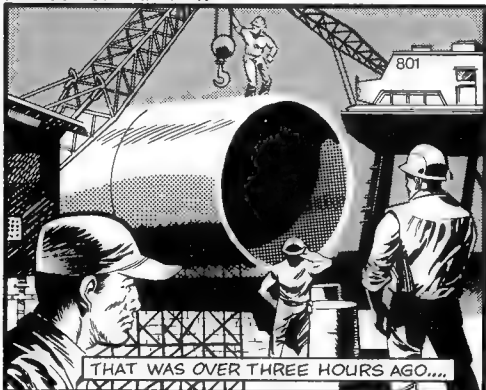
THE CREW STOOD AT THE GAPING MOUTH OF THE GREAT UNFINISHED WATER MAIN, THEIR WORK ON THE NEW AQUEDUCT TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED. JUST BEYOND TOWERED THE **OLD** AQUEDUCT, SO CLOSE THEY COULD ALMOST TOUCH IT, WAITING TO BE CONNECTED TO THE **NEW**... WAITING TO BE RELIEVED OF ITS RESPONSIBILITIES AS THE CITY IN THE SEA'S SOURCE OF LIFE, EVERYTHING WAITED FOR THE MEN SENT DOWN THE PIPE....

THE AQUEDUCT



MUSTAPHA CAIRO SHIFTED HIS GAZE BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN THE OLD AND NEW STRUCTURES AND CRITICALLY STUDIED BOTH. SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO HIS GRANDFATHER HAD BEGUN THE ELDER STRUCTURE, THIRTY-FIVE YEARS AGO HIS FATHER HAD COMPLETED IT, PROVIDING FOR THE FIRST TIME A DEPENDABLE FLOW OF FRESH WATER TO THE SEAGIRT CITY.

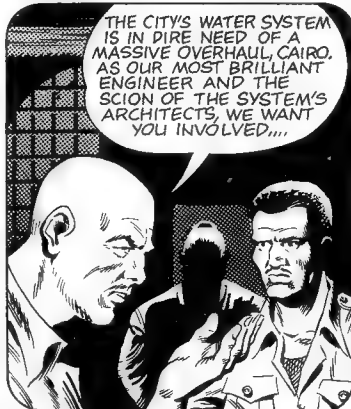
IT WAS ONLY FITTING THEN THAT THE COUNCIL HAD COME TO HIM TO HELP COMPLETE THE **REROUTING** OF THE WATER MAIN. OVER MANY LONG MONTHS HE HAD DESIGNED, ENGINEERED AND SUPERVISED THE DIFFICULT CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW AQUEDUCT, NOW, WITH ONLY THE FINAL TASK OF JOINING HIS CONSTRUCT TO THE OLD MAIN REMAINING, HE HAD SENT THREE MEN DOWN THE PIPELINE INTO THE BOWELS OF THE CITY.



HE HAD BEEN REPEATEDLY ASSURED BY SCHARNHORST THAT HER PEOPLE WOULD TAKE CARE OF THE PIPES UNDER THE CITY THAT HIS ONLY CONCERN WAS FOR THE AQUEDUCT, BUT INSTINCTS AND TRAINING TOLD HIM TO INSPECT THE NEW WORKS HIMSELF BEFORE THEY BECAME A SEALED SYSTEM.

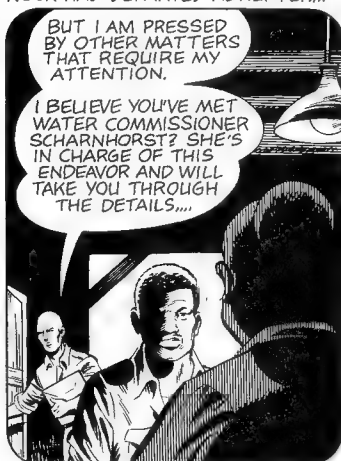


HIS THOUGHTS DRIFTED BACK TO THAT DAY HE HAD BEEN SUMMONED BY GOVERNOR NOCK TO THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS....



THE CITY'S WATER SYSTEM IS IN DIRE NEED OF A MASSIVE OVERHAUL, CAIRO. AS OUR MOST BRILLIANT ENGINEER AND THE SCION OF THE SYSTEM'S ARCHITECTS, WE WANT YOU INVOLVED....

NOCK HAD DEPARTED ABRUPTLY....



BUT I AM PRESSED BY OTHER MATTERS THAT REQUIRE MY ATTENTION.

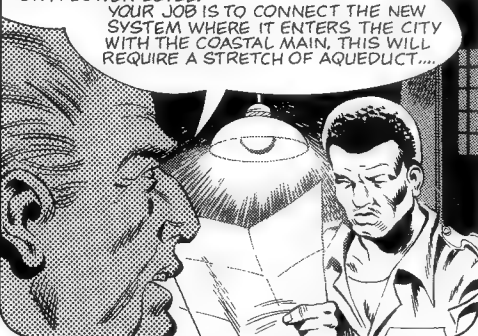
I BELIEVE YOU'VE MET WATER COMMISSIONER SCHARNHORST? SHE'S IN CHARGE OF THIS ENDEAVOR AND WILL TAKE YOU THROUGH THE DETAILS....

THE INFAMOUS WILHELMINA SCHARNHORST/ ONE-TIME QUEEN OF THE **MOLES**, THE WORKERS WHO TOILED IN VAULTS FAR BENEATH THE CITY EXPLORING AND LINEARTHING ANCIENT ARTIFACTS AND TECHNOLOGIES, TRANSFERRED BY THE COUNCIL, SHE HAD MANAGED TO WIELD MYSTERIOUS POLITICAL CLOUT, HAD BEEN AWARDED THE POSITION OF WATER COMMISSIONER....



...AND NOW ENJOYED A GREAT DEAL OF POWER.

THE MAIN FROM THE COAST TO THE CITY IS IN GOOD SHAPE, BUT THE SYSTEM **WITHIN** THE CITY HAS DETERIORATED. RATHER THAN TRY TO UPGRADE THOSE PIPES, WE'VE DECIDED TO **REROUTE** ALL INCOMING WATER TO ANOTHER SYSTEM WE'VE DISCOVERED ON A LOWER LEVEL.



YOUR JOB IS TO CONNECT THE NEW SYSTEM WHERE IT ENTERS THE CITY WITH THE COASTAL MAIN. THIS WILL REQUIRE A STRETCH OF AQUEDUCT....

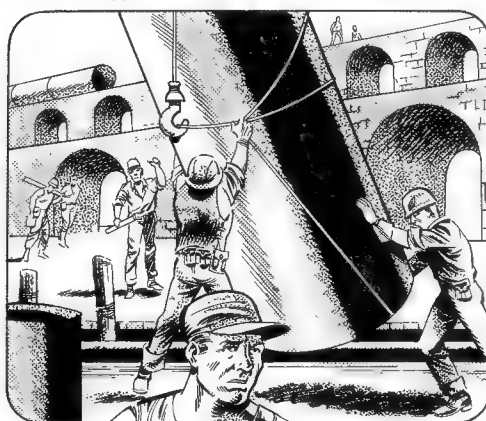
THEN CAME THE **FIRST CAUTION**....



I'M A LITTLE SURPRISED TO HEAR THAT THE CITY'S PIPES ARE IN SUCH BAD SHAPE....

LET ME **STRESS** THAT YOUR CONCERN IS FOR THE CONNECTING AQUEDUCT **ONLY**. MY PERSONNEL WILL TAKE CARE OF THE PHYSICAL PLANT WITHIN THE CITY. STICK TO YOUR ASSIGNED DUTIES.

THE ENORMOUS CHALLENGE OF ENGINEERING THE NEW AQUEDUCT HAD HELD ALL MUSTAPHA'S ATTENTION....



UNTIL **THREE HOURS AGO** WHEN HIS SENSE OF CAUTION HAD LED HIM TO SEND A SAFETY CHECK TEAM DOWN INTO THE NEW SYSTEM.



ONCE THEY HAD TRAVELLED PAST THE AQUEDUCT, MUSTAPHA WAS STARTLED TO FIND THE WATER MAIN DESCENDING SHARPLY. HE FELT THAT THE DROP MUST CARRY THE PIPE WELL UNDER THE CITY... MUCH DEEPER THAN HE HAD SUPPOSED.



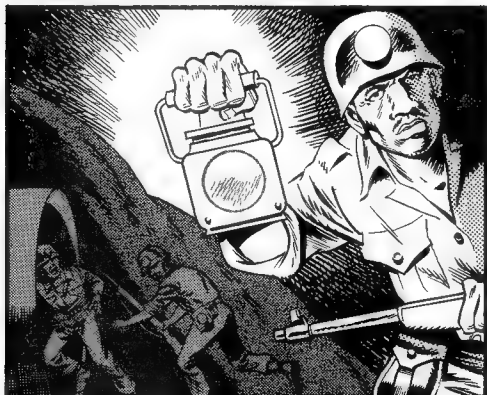
THE PIPE EVENTUALLY LEVELLED OFF AND SUDDENLY DISGORGED INTO A HUGE CHAMBER.





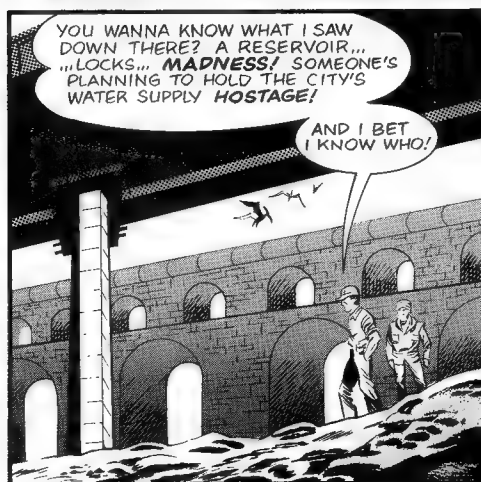
AS THE SURVIVORS SCRAMBLED BACK OUT OF THE CHAMBER, MUSTAPHA SWUNG HIS LAMP AROUND FOR ONE LAST LOOK....

THE ATTACK CEASED ONCE THEY RETURNED TO THE PIPE....



HE WAS LEFT WITH THE IMPRESSION OF HUGE LOCKS... MIGHTY WATER GATES....



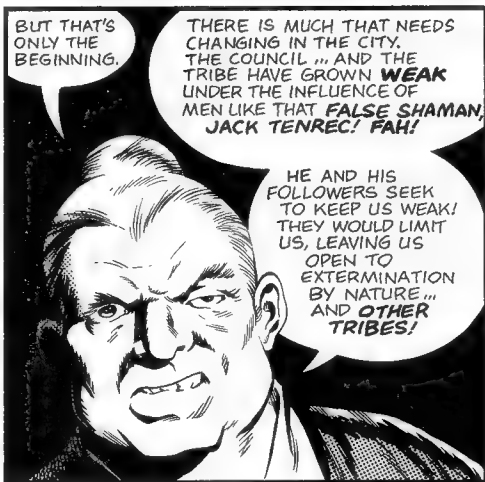
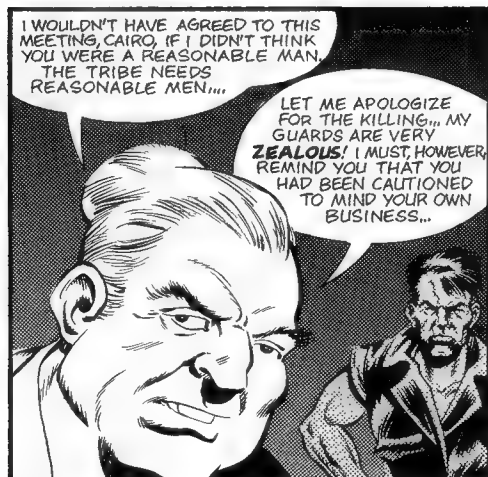
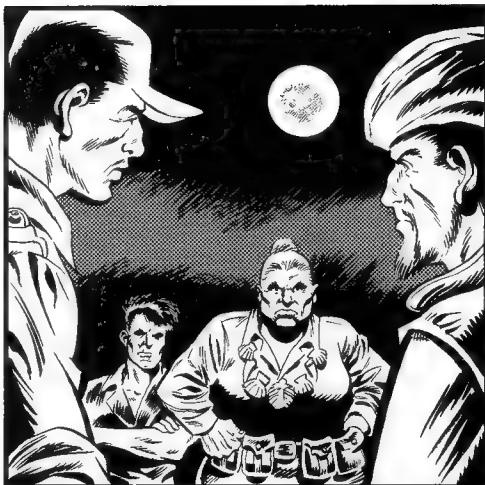
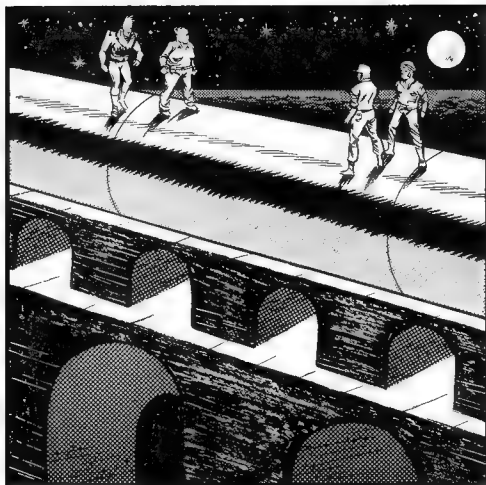


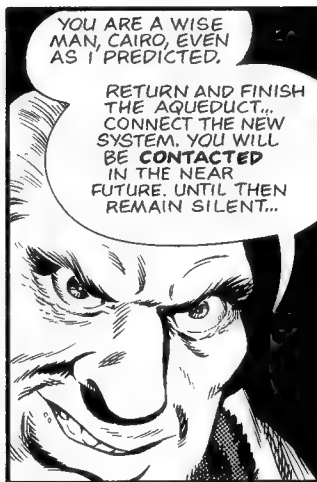
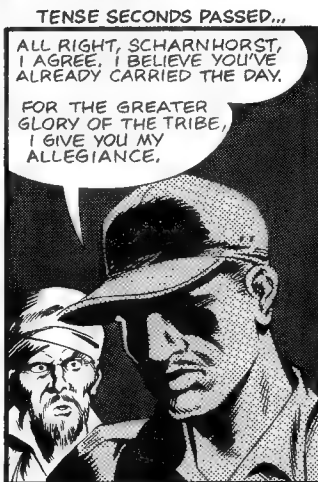
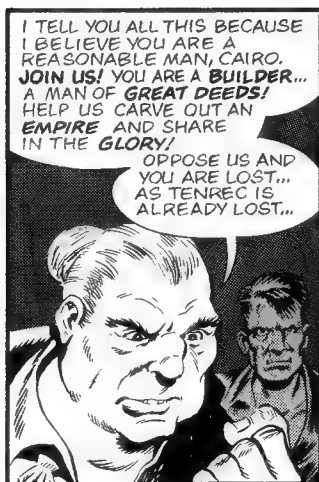
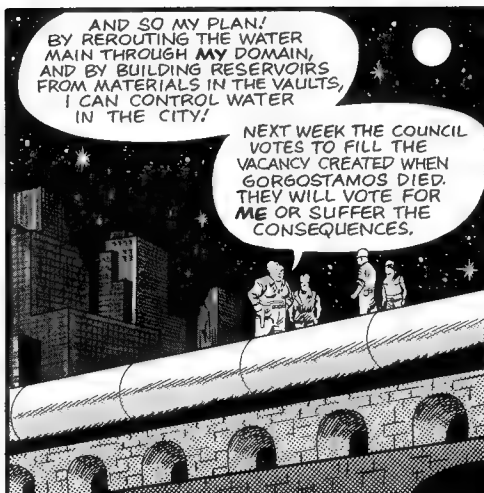
MUSTAPHA DID NOT HAVE TO
WAIT LONG....

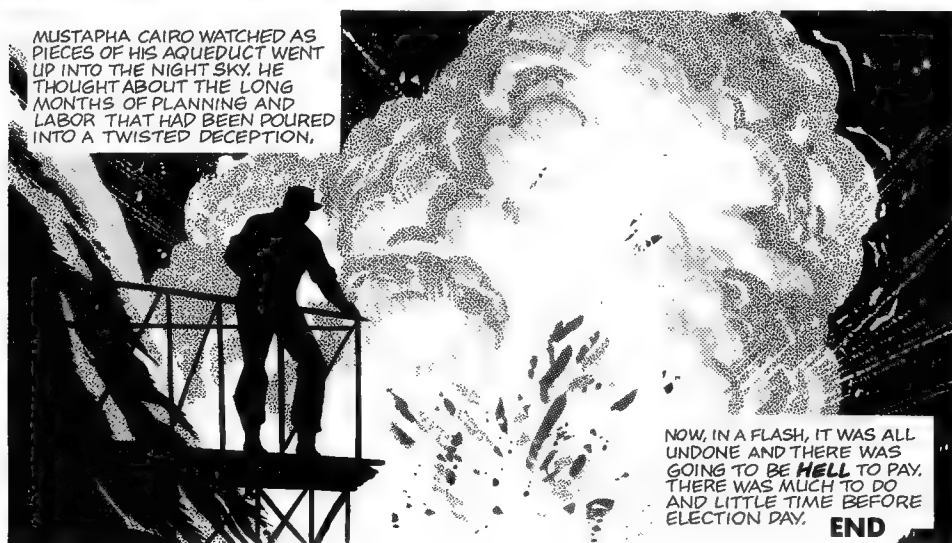
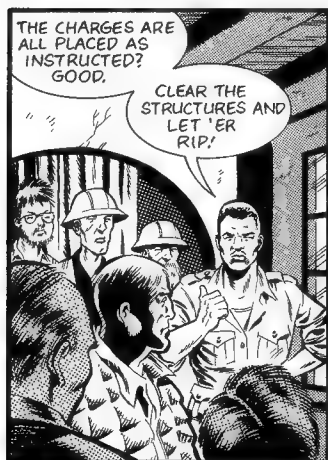
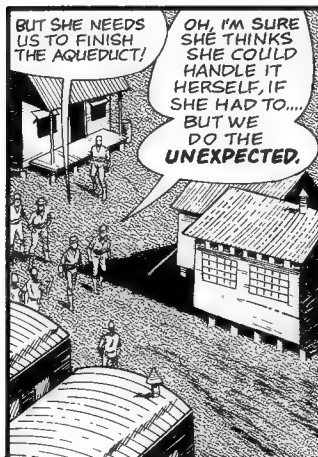
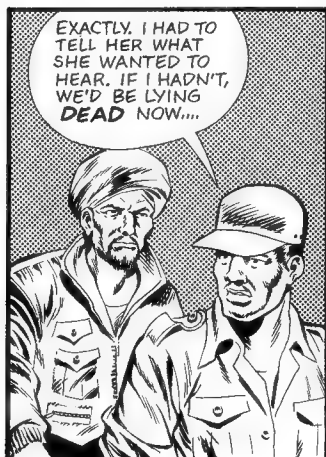
BEFORE HE DEPARTED FOR THE
RENDEZVOUS, HE CALLED FOR
A TEAM OF **SPECIALISTS**....

AT A QUARTER TILL MIDNIGHT HE
AND ISAMBARD DISAPPEARED
INTO THE NIGHT....









XENOZOIC EXPRESS

MEMO: From the desk of Denis Kitchen:

Dave—we haven't had a letters page for five issues! What gives?

MEMO: From the drawing board of Mark Schultz:

Dave—what's your plan, to have a letters page every three years or so? What gives?

HASTILY SCRAWLED NOTE: From the pad of Dave Schreiner:

Jan—paste these suckers up, quick! The hounds are baying at my heels!

NO MORE SUPERHERO RUT

Let me first say thank you for such wonderful work on *Xenozoic Tales* and *Kings in Disguise*. You've gotten me out of that superhero rut once and for all.

The variety and quality of your magazines is extraordinary. Lately I've been enjoying the *Spirit* reprints, too.

However, my favorite is *Xenozoic Tales*. It's absolutely exquisite. It takes me back to my childhood summers full of Burroughs and Verne. I find myself going back over the eight issues I picked up at the Chicago Comicon to savor the details and action-packed pages. I can't believe I missed out on these till now. I can understand the time element involved in producing each issue. Each is a work of art and well worth waiting for.

I'd gladly give up every DC I read now to keep XT coming. I just love it. (Sorry, I'm gushing.)

Keep up the good work—you're all doing a splendid job on both classic and "to-be-classic" art.

Sue Holanik

Chicago, Illinois

NOT FADE AWAY

I've just recently stepped back into reading comics after about ten years away. Back then I was in my mid-teens and I never was aware of this massive independent comics industry. At the time, I think I just got tired of all the carbon copy superhero yarns that Marvel and DC pour out, so I faded away. A few months ago I walked into a comics shop just to see what was what and I was amazed at all the many different comics companies and the different levels of reader maturity that they were aimed at.

That brings me to *Xenozoic Tales*. This title and a very few others are the reason

I'm extremely interested in comics once again. The art is superb and although I've only read two issues, the stories have been fine and the characters likable. Keep up the good work!

Ed Deleiter

Reheboth, Massachusetts

MIX CLICKS

Xenozoic Tales is incredible. Somehow, you've got dinosaurs, aliens (?), just plain monsters, magnificently decayed ancient cities and just-plain-folks trying to live in the middle of it. And all these disparate, supposedly clichéd elements work; they click beautifully.

Does Ray Bradbury know about this book? He'd love it.

Chris Cooper

Lompoc, California

ON TOUR WITH XENO

I play in a band, Camper Van Beethoven, and during this past three months touring I have discovered *Xenozoic Tales* in my regular trips around the U.S. and U.K., and it has rapidly become one of my favorites. It's nice to see an artist using some of the best styles that seem to have been forgotten over the last 25 years. Mr. Schultz's art and writing are getting better issue by issue.

Jonathan Segel

Santa Cruz, California

PASSAGE TO THE XENOZOIC

I want to congratulate you for your excellent publications. They are of the best graphic quality. I like Eisner, Caniff, Al Capp, Kurtzman, and the best of all for me is *Xenozoic Tales* by Mark Schultz. It has beautiful drawings, and is wonderful.

I wish the best of success for Mark Schultz; also to Mr. Denis Kitchen, for giving me each three months a passage to the *Xenozoic* era.

Claudio Raul Rodriguez

Buenos Aires, Argentina

ANOTHER HERO BURNOUT

I just want to mention that your title, *Xenozoic Tales*, is the best book on the comics racks these days. Not only is Mark

Schultz a good artist, but he writes just as well. I love the subject matter and I hope he continues doing this title for quite a while. I don't know, but I'm getting a bit tired of superheroes, and Mr. Schultz came up with something that caught my interest. I'm also very happy that he did a cover for *Kings in Disguise*, as I was anxious to see him try his hand at something else. He's such a good artist and I think he can draw just about anything. His stuff reminds me so much of those old EC books from the 1950s, both in his stories and his art. He also seems to be developing a style all his own. Keep publishing books like this and I'll keep buying them!

Kenny McFarlane

Newmarket, New Hampshire

GOING BEYOND ROOTS

I wanted to compliment you on the finest comic on the stands, *Xenozoic Tales*. Even though it begins with the dreaded letter X, this book has one of the most literate storylines being published. It's true that the dinosaur connection initially sparked my interest, but it's the continually excellent stories and art that keep me hooked. I personally love the episodic format where we are presented with pieces of the *Xenozoic* puzzle. We are introduced to the characters through their actions and attitudes rather than through outright explanation. I think the book is a perfect fusion of the best elements of the '50s and the '80s. It borders on corny without ever becoming campy. The character of Tenrec is fascinating with his shaman mystique, the elemental force ala Burroughs without being hampered by Burroughs' ridiculousness. In fact, it's that strength that has allowed ERB's work to survive, surmounting its inherent weaknesses.

The art is the finest I've seen in comics since Neal Adams and the EC stable. While I don't worship at the EC altar, despite their flaws I feel that it is unarguable that EC had the finest art staff ever assembled and will never be surpassed. So naturally I'm fond of Schultz's work, with its touches of Wood, Williamson, and Frazetta. But Schultz has advanced beyond his roots, emerging as an extraordinary artist in his own right. Each issue has been successively better; congratulations to Mark. Now he should clone himself so we

can have more *Xenozoic Tales*. Then I'll be satisfied. Maybe.

Alan M. Baker
Camden, South Carolina

LIKES THE BLEND

Thanks for *Xenozoic Tales* #5, which is the first Kitchen Sink Press issue of any title that I have purchased. The artwork is superb and the characters lively. What I most liked was the blend of modern civilization and people with creatures that are otherwise known to us only as fossils. I am a native of Wisconsin, and therefore know that the trilobite, as pictured on the cover of #5 at bottom right, is the official state fossil. I am a musician and have the trilobite as a logo for my personal publishing company. When I was young, my eldest brother, who was studying paleontology at UW—Madison, would always come home and teach me all about the dinosaurs and fossils. So I have always greatly appreciated them. Keep up the great work.

Bennett Newhauser
Los Angeles, California

LIKES THE ART

Blessed as it is with more plusses (the 'XLNT' Stiles backups, the "Fabulous '50s" feel, side-striped black chinos and sidearms) than minuses (the lack of color, scripting that, in some instances, needs to catch up to the art) *Xenozoic Tales* fascinates me most in the way that the book uniquely addresses itself, perhaps unconsciously, to the plague of the '80s, and I don't mean AIDS.

The plague of the '80s has been a rather noxious crop of "fan fave" comic book "designers" who've conned the readership into championing bad art. You know the types I'm talking about: the flashy loudmouths who infest the conventions, harangue the readership via protracted fanzine editorials, and generally make nuisances of themselves at any and every opportunity. I call them comic book "designers" because, essentially, they can't draw worth a damn. They consistently and persistently focus fandom's attention on the "design," or the "graphic continuity," or (God forbid, here it comes!) "the storytelling"...all in a vain attempt to steer the spotlight away from what really counts in comics: *the art*, that manifest plain-as-day proof that the artist in question (whoever he or she may be) can draw the bloody pants off of any and all opposition.

I never bought a comic book in my life because of the design, or the script, or the calligraphy, or (Good Lord! Choke!) the "storytelling." I only bought a comic book because of the *one* ingredient without

which it *cannot* exist and still be what it is, the *only* ingredient which, in the final analysis, *really* counts: *the art!*

In Mark Schultz, we have an answer to the plague of the '80s. He's got all the right stylistic influences, and, liking where he's been, I've got to like where he's going with all of it, smoothly bringing it together the way he does. I really don't give a hoot what you have to do to keep him away from pumping gas or any other such horrifying compromise with everyday mundane reality, just as long as he's well stocked with #3 art-sign finepoints and several gallons of Pelikan extra dense. The whole idea, you see, is to keep that unwashed horde of comic book "designers" emerald with envy for a good long lifetime.

Ken Feduniewicz
Island Heights, New Jersey

ACCURATE ZOOLOGY

I wanted to take a minute to thank you for publishing an excellent line of comics aimed at adults. *Kings in Disguise* is one of the finest works of literature I have read this year, and if it was your only title, you would still be one of the better publishers. However, you also publish *Xenozoic Tales*, *Li'l Abner*, *The Spirit*, and *Omaha*—all favorites of mine.

As a molecular biologist who also has training in general biology and paleontology, I really appreciate the accurate (zoologically) art in *Xenozoic Tales*.

John D. Trawick
Boulder, Colorado

WE GOT HIM

All right, ya got me—I'm a sucker for underwater adventure, and *Xenozoic Tales* #5 offered up a Davy Jones lockerful. The cover was irresistible and "Excursion" was simply the best *Xenozoic* tale to date. Hannah's revelations regarding the Wassoon culture, and its motivations in opening negotiations with Jack's tribe, drop further shades of understanding into the series, while at the same time foreshadowing future conflicts between the two cultures. Certainly, as separate representatives of their own social systems, both Jack and Hannah must feel a nagging obligation to manipulate the best terms for their own people; and yet Jack and Hannah are not "model" citizens of their worlds—both of them are intelligent enough to comprehend the dangers inherent in either culture gaining a considerable edge on the other, and the knowledge both Hannah and Jack secretly share can be expected to be revealed only after the two of them reach a private and mutual understanding concerning the overall benefits for all societies.

"Dog's Life," on the other hand, was

not quite as interesting. Part of the reason, I feel, was that Mark Schultz relinquished the pencilling and inks to Steve Stiles; but the greater reason was that the story resembled too closely Jack London's *Call of the Wild* and *White Fang*. While I enjoy reading London, "Dog's Life" seemed to offer little beyond London's original premise, even though we can begin to suspect the ramifications of the evolutionary process in the *Xenozoic* Era a little better. Unfortunately, its brevity and concept revealed more London than Schultz. I guess I've come expect more form a *Xenozoic* story—call me spoiled.

D. Kingsley Hahn
St. Paul, Minnesota

NEVER LIKE THIS

I love *Xenozoic Tales*. It is one of the best black and whites I have ever read. Mark Schultz's art is great, and I love the stories. The idea of mixing past and present technology is tried and true indeed, but never like this.

One of the aspects that first drew me to your comic was the old Cadillacs. I own a '55 Chevrolet myself, and I like to see old cars in any form. Cadillacs were the symbol of an era, an example of outrageous design that adds greatly to the book.

I would like to see more revealed about the cataclysm that destroyed civilization as we know it. I would also like to see more of a relationship develop between Jack and Hannah. Hannah is my favorite character.

Ken Taylor
Hopkinsville, Kentucky

UNUSUALLY CAPTIVATING

Xenozoic Tales is altogether an unusually captivating rarity, so I'm especially pleased that it will be reprinted in an enhanced format. *Cadillacs & Dinosaurs* (catchy title) sounds like a very savory book, and another superb production from the diligent crew at KSP.

Mark Schultz is certainly a superior talent with genuine masterful potentiality. It's been a long time since I had last discovered such an absorbing and highly satisfying artist-storyteller. Suffice it to say, Schultz's material is a major and indispensable part of my select comics enjoyment. Yes indeed, the mysterious *Xenozoic* emits many and varied benefits.

Rick Kuper
Scarborough, Ontario, Canada

Write letters of comment to:
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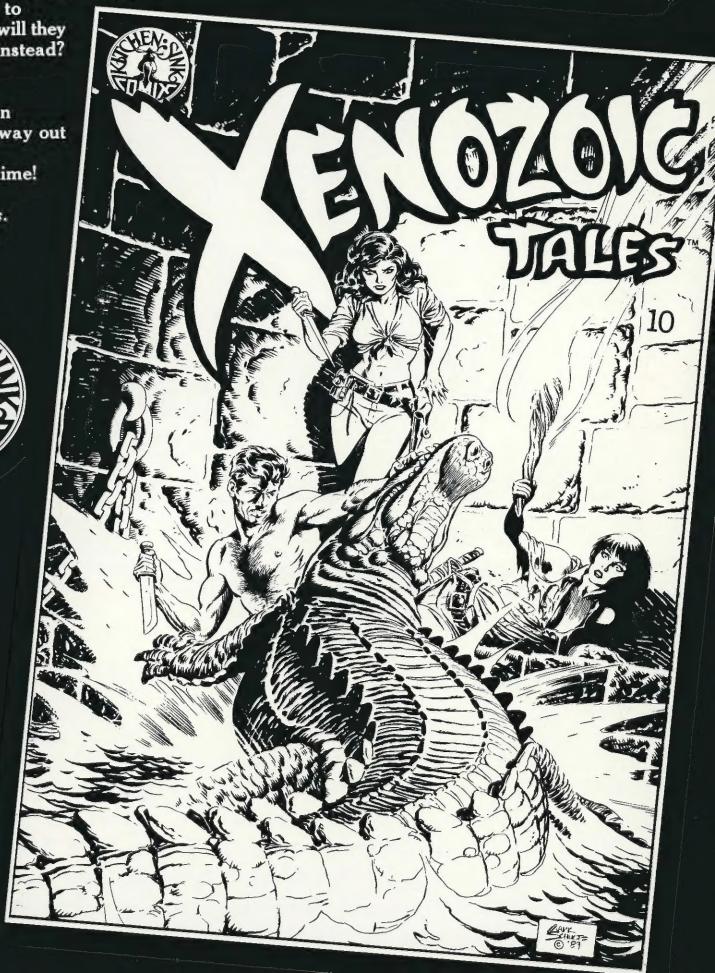
Next Issue:

In the next issue—No. 10—of Mark Schultz's *Xenozoic Tales* Jack becomes a political prisoner, sent to the dungeons by the governing council. Hannah, Dahlgren, and Mustapha try desperately to rescue him, but will they need rescuing instead?

They're all in big trouble—can they find their way out of the city? Find out next time!

Xenozoic Tales.
Don't miss it!

Jack in chains!



Past and future meet in a world gone mad!

Cadillacs & Dinosaurs



by MARK SCHULTZ

The first collection of Mark Schultz's *Xenozoic Tales* is on sale now at better bookstores and comics shops. *Cadillacs & Dinosaurs* has all the XT stories thru issue 4, plus the *Death Rattle* tale that kicked the whole series off. It's introduced by Al Williamson, and it comes in soft- and signed & numbered hardcover. Get it.